

FURS, SKATING TOGS AND NEGLIGEEES ALL TEMPT THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Big, Soft Draped Collars Have Taken Women by Storm—
Very Smart Sweaters for the Skater—
Attire for the Boudoir

By ELEANOR HOYT BRAINERD

CHRISTMAS shopping began earlier than usual this season. Some of the shoppers were moved by consideration for salesfolk, some by realization that they themselves would have an easier time at the beginning of the fray than in the full heat of battle, and many by current warnings that because of uncertainties and impossibilities affecting importations the worms would most distinctly be for the early birds this Christmas time.

Yet though the turmoil began early it shows every sign of lasting late, and the fact that things offered for sale are on the whole higher in price than usual does not apparently have the slightest effect upon the shopping fever.

The furrers are having a good season even though the weather clerk has persistently turned a deaf ear to their requests for Arctic temperature. There has been more than the usual change in both fur coats and small furs, and though handsome conventional shaped furs of highest quality are always beautiful enough to have distinction the less expensive

Russian turban with a tall brushlike front trimming or a flat jeweled metallic or embroidered ornament, and here again mole is omnipresent. No other fur lends itself so well to an entire hat, but the other pelts are combined cleverly with velvet, satin, antique cloth, etc.

Skating togs of all kinds are in order this Christmas, provided the woman in question skates, and most of the younger women do skate, along with all the girls.

Fur skating sets, including cap, collar, muff and possibly skate bag, are offered in the popular furs, but of course are if successful somewhat expensive. So are the smartest of the fur trimmed chenille, cloth, velvet and angora sets, yet there are delightful things not prohibitive in price, and when one turns to the wool sets of the angora, brushed wool, etc., it is possible to find very attractive sets at comparatively low prices.

A beautiful silk sweater or even a separate scarf in silk is a gift sure to prove acceptable if chosen in a color becoming to the receiver, but for wear without a coat when the enveloping top coat is left behind at the edge of the ice the soft fleecy woollens are the thing. Some of the prettiest of the bright hued sweaters, particularly those of wool without the fuzzy nap of Angora, are softened about the

The scarfs knitted of wool, longer and narrower than the average neck scarf, and worn straight around the body under the arms, crossed in the back over the shoulder blades, with an end drawn forward over each shoulder and down to tuck under the girdle section, are made this season not only in plain colors but with narrow contrasting borders or with contrasting stripes

Any woman can knit one and the cost is slight, while they can be worn under a coat that would not allow the bulk of a sleeved sweater. One version of this scarf, worn at a country club recently, was in white Angora and in the center front of the clinging girdle like section was embroidered a gay futuristic roseway of many bright colors. The dash of color and the ground of fuzzy white were as effective as a chic waistcoat when the coat of the blue sports suit was thrown open. The cap of white Angora had for trimming an embroidered motif like that on the hat.

And while one talks of woollen things for sports wear, the woollen sports hose must not be forgotten. Looking at the high heeled, pointed toe, light colored boots in which a majority of the women go teetering up and down, the woman who wears the thick, soft, fine hose of wool, flecked or plaided or plain with plaided tops; but smart skating boots are as practical as street boots are impractical and these woollen sports hose are definitely of the mode.

When one turns to gifts for inside wearing, the casual friend is likely to choose some casual bit of frivolity; but where intimacy permits, the department of negligees and underwear offer inspiration for gifts.

Any woman loves a pretty matinee, but the prettiest must be of the sort suited to the woman who is to wear it. We've been gradually educated to the art of the negligee; but even now, the average woman has no use for the ephemeral trifle of net or chiffon or lace, trimmed in ribbons and tiny silk flowers, that is usually the first thing shown when one asks for an attractive matinee.

There must be many, many women who wear these things or canny merchants would not provide them in such quantities, but one must be sure that the woman to whom such a negligee goes is the type of woman who will wear it. If she isn't, give her something that will provide at least an appreciable degree of warmth and does not so loudly call for a French boudoir setting.

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Two matinees, one of blue chiffon and lace and one of beaded chiffon with silk roses, with other Christmas gift suggestions.



fur must needs adapt themselves to the whims of fashion, and many women want even their moles to conform to the mode of the moment.

The big soft draped collars, cape collars, capes, etc., have taken femininity by storm, and save in the case of the handsomest grades of fox are the prevailing modes in neck furs. The straight stole or scarf is shown also, but is less modish than it was last winter, and the same is true of the straight stock or chin collar, though some women wisely cling to this high, close collar when the thicker shoulder edging lines of the newer collars are unbecoming.

Ermine, alone or trimmed in other fur, is perhaps leading in Christmas small furs. A misnomer that is now-days, when "small furs" are quite likely so far as the neckpiece is concerned, to reach to the waist line all around. Its a festive fur, is ermine; and even if one has other furs, practical, dark furs, there's always a place in the well dressed woman's wardrobe for something in this soft white fur which belongs with afternoon or evening costume.

Kolinsky trims many of the best looking ermine cape collars effectively and mole and ermine are lovely together. With what isn't mole lovely? Not youth wears it, but so supple, so lustrous, so exquisite in color shades, so kind to almost every color with which one could want to use it.

The limitations of this fur, though often attractive, lack much of the tone and texture that make the genuine mole exquisite, and so the genuine fur loses little of its prestige through the lavish use of the limitations. By reason of its extraordinary softness it lends itself better than any other fur to the draped and very full collar arrangements, and one can hardly make a mistake in giving mole furs to any one who desires them.

Among dark furs not extravagantly high in price, kolinsky is prime favorite, with skunk for second choice, but fox is as always, tremendously popular and is offered not only in the conventional animal scarfs but in many fur hat shoulder collars as well, taupe and fox being particularly liked for this type of collar.

Hudson seal, beaver and the omnipresent rabbit in its various incarnations are the inexpensive furs that command demand. Any one of the modish collar shapes, so long as it is big, and a round or melon shaped muff makes a fairly safe Christmas hazard. If one wants to add a fur hat it will be a safe modification of the

The color is the crux of this matter, however. Imports are unreliable and stocks already sadly depleted. Domestic offerings, while good looking in line and detail, are, it must be admitted, far from satisfactory in color.

The tones are as a rule hard and crude and unbecoming, and many women are because of this fault turning to the all white sets, which in soft fleecy wool are more becoming and look uncommonly well, even if not so gay.

The same difficulty in the matter of color is making itself felt in connection with sweaters. The silks seem to offer softer tones, possibly because the imported stock both of sweaters and thread, being more expensive, has not melted away quite so rapidly as have the wools.

Some of the brown sweater cap and scarf sets are particularly nice this season, soft warm rather deep browns being relieved by sand or amber or other light tones, even by the well liked brownish yellows. There are unusually good greens also among the season's woollen things—not the bright hard green of the average domestic sweater set, but soft, grayish and brownish greens, sometimes flecked with heather colors. Burgundy, Bordeaux, prunelle have made their way into sweater and cap and scarf sets, as elsewhere in the province of dress, and are usually, in the best models, relieved by gray.

A separate Angora scarf or plaid, extra wide and long, is a good gift, useful for many occasions, and is at its best where the ground of the scarf is of white or gray or beige with warm bright colors only in the plaiding.

Every woman will have a Christmas bag. It may be a cheap one and it may be an expensive one, but there's no excuse for it's not being a pretty one.

If it isn't altogether of beads it is likely to be bead embroidered, but there are many interesting bags that have no beading or other embroidery and owe their originality and beauty to bits of rich, colorful or metallic old brocades, combined with plain velvet or silk. Fur trims some of the smartest street bags, and is the foundation material of others, but the velvet bag, more or less elaborately embroidered, is more generally popular

than any other, being offered at prices to suit all pocketbooks.

Now that the bag of fabric or beads plays so important a part, the leather bag is, as a rule, relegated to sheer usefulness and assumes a practical air. The envelope bags or purses are still in order, but there is an increasing liking for leather bags of ample size, bags that will hold checkbooks and samples and vanity cases and even small packages.

It is far easier to find this type of bag than it was a year or two ago, and another type of bag that has heaped into favor and will be a popular Christmas gift is the overnight bag, a little larger than the largest shopping bag, fitted with small sized toilet things and much less bulky than anything of the kind we have had, save, of course, the motor bag, which is its nearest relation.

The fitted dressing case, once an unusual luxury on this side of the Atlantic, is now very generally carried and may be very costly or comparatively inexpensive, according as the toilet articles are French ivory or real ivory or tortoise shell or silver or gold and as the leather is expensive or cheap, though for that matter to good leather is cheap today. Luckily black enamelled duck has been brought to a perfection that makes it very presentable and is made up into all

sorts of bags, motor trunks, luncheon cases, etc., that are well fitted and have a smart air, even if they haven't the elegance of leather articles and will not wear so well.

The high cost of leather is particularly emphasized in foot wear, but women seem to be buying elaborate dress and street boots as nonchalantly as though prices were not soaring. Fifteen dollars is no unusual price for a pair of good looking dress boots and \$15 is charged for some boots that were \$15 earlier in the season. However, light colored, high heeled and uppers with leather soles, with have many such boots are, so the salesfolk say, being bought for Christmas gifts.

As for slippers, fancy slippers are always acceptable if one can make sure of their fitting, and there are plenty of slippers with a gay and Christmaslike air. Silver brocade, gold brocade, satin embroidered in gold or silver or in beads, plain satin slippers handsomely buckled, bronze slippers with bronze buckles, gray suede slippers steel buckled—all of these are delightful, and a pair of them tucked into a slipper bag or box is a gift that is sure to be a delight to a woman's heart.

Or perhaps one chooses skating boots for the gift. They may be had in white, in pearl gray, as well as in

black, heavy but soft, correct from the sporting standpoint, low heeled, heavy soled, laced almost to the toe tip, but so smartly cut, so beautifully made that they do not suggest clumsiness.

Add a pair of skates to the pair of boots, put both boots and skates into a smart bag of cloth and fur and you have a gift that will make the girl who skates proud and happy.

Of the woollen sports-hosiery we have spoken in another place, and of the silk hose which are always reliable Christmas gifts there is little to tell that is new. The fine, plain, one-tone silk hose are still the favorites, and though freshly hosiery comes and goes the really well dressed woman passes it by.

Boudoir slippers of many kinds are of interest to the Christmas shopper, and whether one buys felt bedside shoes or mules of embroidered satin or brocade, little affairs of lace, or satin ribbon and tiny silk flowers must depend upon the woman who is to get the slippers.

The lace and ribbon trifles are dainty things, harmonizing with the quaint boudoir caps that are another popular Christmas gift, and with moles or robes more artistic than substantial; but for comfort and actual service satin Turkish slippers of good quality or, better still, the satin slipper somewhat like a Turkish slipper

as to toe but made with very low heels, are more satisfactory, and the satin or velvet Roman slippers, fleecy lined and fur edged are very comfortable things on a cold morning.

Boudoir caps grow more fascinating season by season, and the unpleasant notion with the full full last prevailing one day, shades are quarter and more original now, and there is a becoming change for every woman; but it is to be sought patiently and prayerfully, and for that reason Christmas givers of boudoir caps are ficklest hosts, though they are ficklest gifts and charming ones.

Fans are another Christmas standby, and this season leather fans are the favored gift. They are modish and new and some of them are exceedingly pretty, though none are better than the big, flat, curled ostrich plume fan of many sections. The ostrich plume fans are very likely to be straight and flat and clipped for today's fan, and many feathers, other than ostrich are used.

Cat and many barnyard feet and game bird feathers are pressed into service, and leather plumes defy description in their variety and beauty. Quiver things are done with all these feathers, and even the peacock feathers have their own brand of coloring and assume designs, masquerading perhaps in gray with black, shading through bright light to rich red, or perhaps the coloring is a delicate sashy with eyes in green and purple and blue.

LEATHER WASTE VALUABLE.

SHOES are going up physically and the price too is mounting. The manufacturer says that the cost of labor is greater and that leather is daily becoming scarcer. Yet it has been pointed out that scrap leather might easily be turned into a source of revenue that would lower the cost of producing coats and shoes.

Any one who has been in a shoe factory knows how abundant is the scrap and how apparently hopeless seems to be the problem of making profitable use of the stuff. A chemical establishment in Alaska has lately discovered an unexpected use for this leather waste.

Much has been written in the past few months about the extraction of nitrogen from the air and the need of nitrogen for the soil for the replenishment of the soil in the fields. This Alaskan concern has developed a process by which leather scrap can be transformed into a highly valuable nitrogenous fertilizer. At the same time in making this fertilizer it is possible to recover from the waste leather something like 25 per cent. of its tanning.

The process is said to be beneficial in the first place, leather scrap from which the tannin has not been extracted is of comparatively little value as a fertilizer, but when the waste material is freed of its tannin it becomes a very helpful source of plant food. The method is substantially as follows: The leather pieces are chopped fine and the grease is removed, and after this, by means of an alkaline bath at a temperature of from 50 to 60 degrees, most of the tannin is recovered. The leather remaining is then converted into a highly nitrogenous fertilizer by the addition of lime and by the addition of a suitable alkali.

The fertilizer so formed is readily absorbed by the soil by the action of rain and thus the needed nitrogen is carried to the roots of vegetation. The tannin solution obtained by the extracting bath is condensed and by a process of evaporation a suitable measure of pure tannin is recovered. Tannin is expensive and much in demand, and this treatment of leather scrap is found well worth while.

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An ermine and kolinsky set, a kolinsky cape and a set of seal with brown silk tabs.

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